

## WASHINGTON CRITIC

*Political Daily, Sunday Excepted.*

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RICHARD B. SYLVESTER, - - Editor

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WASHINGTON, AUGUST 15, 1887.

This letter from "One of the Commissioners" in the Post this morning is not in good taste. In the first place, a communication to the press of that character should have been signed by the writer, with a signature as bold as that of John Hancock's to the Declaration of Independence.

In the second place, there was no occasion whatever for writing a communication of that character to the newspapers. That is, the Commissioners stand in no need of such methods of defense, and Tim Ciaro, as a firm believer in their honesty and zeal to behalf of the public interests, regrets that any one of them should have thought it necessary to rush into print in this wholly needless way.

In the existing agitation the great body of the citizens of the District are with them. A mere handful of fault-finders is against them. The former are satisfied with the explanations and vindictive statements that have been officially made. They know that the Commissioners are guiltless of the gross charges that have been laid at the doors of the District building, and that they are administering the affairs of the District to the best of their knowledge and ability. Whatever "One of the Commissioners" may say, over an anonymous signature, adds nothing to the strength of their position and detracts something from its dignity.

If the corporations are not above the cours, it begins to look as though Senator Stanford and his associates would be compelled to answer the questions put to them by the Pacific Railroad Commissioners relative to the expense account of the Central Pacific. They are searching interrogatories, it is true, and calculated to unearth a great many secrets that the good Senator would rather keep under cover; but the public has a creditor-interest in the Central Pacific. It has a right to know all about its receipts and disbursements. If there are vouchers unaccounted for amounting to two million dollars, it's the Governor's business to point out into whose pockets this sum went—whether manipulated, expended, and who profited by it, and what legislation was defeated or carried through its persuasive influence. The Central Pacific is not a private concern, like a man's house, except from invasion. It is a public corporation, the creation of Congress, and Congress should insist upon knowing all about the creature's habits.

AARON A. SARGENT, ex United States Senator, who died in San Francisco yesterday, was a native of Newburyport, Mass., and 60 years of age. He was one of the California "Forty-niners" and was admitted to the bar of that State in 1854. He served three terms in the House of Representatives at Washington from 1861 to 1867, and was elected to the United States Senate in 1873, serving a full term. Early in Mr. Garfield's administration he was appointed Minister to Germany. He was a fine lawyer and a man of good general abilities, but as a diplomat at Berlin he fell below the mark and succeeded only in provoking a quarrel with Bismarck on the hog question, which the grim Chancellor has scarcely got over yet. Mr. Sargent was highly esteemed in Washington, however, and will be remembered as one of the best friends the District ever had.

AS INVESTIGATION of the great railroad catastrophe in Illinois proceeds with a view to wrecking the train, the burning of the bridge would seem to have been occasioned through the neglect or carelessness of the section men, thus throwing the responsibility on the railway company. It will be a responsibility that the company, which was only lately reorganized by sale to the first mortgage bondholders, will be hard pushed to meet, as the lowest estimate of damages in case the rail is held liable is placed at \$1,000,000.

THE drought in the Northwest, according to the estimates of H. G. Dan &amp; Co., will cause an aggregate loss to the farmers of that section of over \$300,000,000. A difference in purchases of manufactured and imported goods by the communities thus crippled is therefore inevitable, and the situation is not bettered by the wild speculation in lands and town lots throughout many portions of the West. As generally happens in such cases, however, the losses to farmers by the drought will probably prove less serious than now roughly calculated.

THE Pittsburgh Leader has been canvassing the Presidential preferences of about 8,000 of its subscribers in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, and of sixty-two candidates named as first choice, finds that Blaine leads, with Cleveland a good second, Robert T. Lincoln third, Sherman fourth and Conkling fifth. In the city of Pittsburgh Lincoln leads, Sherman follows, and Governor Hill comes in third.

ONE of the most encouraging signs in the political skies is the inability of the United Labor party and the Socialists of New York to harmonize. Their distinctive elements are too radically different to assimilate or compromise.

The interests of labor demand conservative rather than revolutionary measures for their protection, and the more vigorously the workingmen antagonize Socialism in all its forms, the more certain are they to gain the confidence of the country and secure the legislation they desire.

ADMIRAL LUKE is said to feel so sore over the revocation of his recent circular order by Secretary Whitney that he has asked to be relieved of the command of the North Atlantic squadron. The Admiral is altogether too sensitive. He should remember "Old Pap" Thomas, who, between Sherman on the one hand and Grant on the other, stood the meanest rasping on record, yet bit his lips and won immortal fame by driving Hood's army out of Tennessee.

THE Belgian block nuisance on D street, between Seventh and Tenth streets, promises to stay with us. We hope in hopes that some way might be seen for tearing it up and carting it off. It is the noisiest and most nerve-distracting piece of pavement that was ever laid, and probably every business man and resident on the street would gladly contribute to its removal. Asphalt would answer the purpose much better.

PRINCE PANAYANDO, the new ruler of Bulgaria, ascends the throne of that vexatious kingdom with the cheerful remark that he will always be ready to sacrifice his life for its happiness. The young monarch is evidently of the stuff that martyrs are made of, and it wouldn't surprise us at all if the Tsar of Russia, some of those fine mornings, should give him the sacrificial opportunity.

AVOCES from Colorado are still indefinite as to the Indian uprising, but such news as is received indicates that the Utes mean mischief. Such being the case the present troubles will be very apt to end in their extermination.

AS THIS reported contest between Ex-Secretary Manning and Private Secretary Lamont for control of the Albany Argus is strenuously denied by both these gentlemen, we are warranted in believing it a very dead issue.

SENATOR RIDDELLEREN says it is his misfortune to practice before a judge who is a lunatic. The Senator's real misfortune is not so much in the court he practices before as it is in the bar.

NOTES AND GOSSIP.

THE Board of Police Commissioners of Cincinnati have recommended an increase of the force from 300 to 360.

It is said of Mr. Russell Sage that he can command \$25,000,000 in cash in half an hour any time during business hours.

MR. MURAT HALSTEAD of Cincinnati, now about to leave London for the Continent, will sell for home \$300,000.

GOVERNOR FORBES of Ohio will formally open his campaign for re-election at Caldwell, N. Y., on the 7th of September.

THE master with James C. Flood, the California millionaire, is Bright's disease and goes to the eye. He will probably go to Carlsbad as soon as his strength will permit.

Over one million fish poles are annually imported to this country by one firm, and yet people wonder at the prevalence of the taste for inhaling liquors—[Chicago News].

THE organ of the New Auditorium building, Chicago will be the largest in the United States, costing \$1,000,000 and costing \$20,000. It will really be art in itself.

IF the Governor of Kansas should eventually remark to the Governor of Iowa that it is a long time to drink drunks, the observation would be curiously pertinent.—[Nebraska Journal].

THE Harris family are to have a reunion at Birmingham Park, near West Chester, Pa., September 27. They all descended from the original Michael Harris, who came to this country in 1682.

GRANGER W. VANDENBERG and Miss Catherine Bruce are both about to present the city with branch buildings for the use of the New York Free Library. They will be costly structures and throng in all their appointments.

AN AMERICAN girl will go abroad to study operatic music, says Grace Greenwood, let her first go to Italy, especially to Milan, to learn the true Italian method of training for technique and singing, and then to London to make herself a prima donna.

PRIVATE Wire Connections. Buy and sell Stocks, Bonds and Miscellaneous Securities on New York Stock Exchange.

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First-class work at moderate prices. Gold and silver work. Amalgam and gold plates satisfactorily guaranteed. Gentle treatment assured.

PROPOSALS.

THE BUREAU OF DEPARTMENT—Offices of the Secretary, August 12, 1887.—There will be sold at this department, commencing Saturday, August 12, 1887, at 1 o'clock p.m., a number of articles, including books, carpets, file-holders, etc. Terms of sale to the highest bidder for cash. C. S. PAINTER, Secretary.

DUNCANSON BROS., Auctioneers.

WANTED HELP—FEMALE.

THE latest design of the diamond brooch is in the shape of a star, and can be used as a hair ornament, pendant and two styles of brooches, the centre stone in the star being detachable. Another in the form of a shell contains 101 diamonds.

A unique idea for a small watch is a thin chain which is almost a diamond-set bracelet and divided into smaller diamonds in each of which is set in turn a brilliant, a ruby or a sapphire. The effect is very striking indeed.

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